



Photo by Lisa Gonzales

## Extra gravy, please!

Commanders, command chiefs, first sergeants and volunteers served hearty Thanksgiving Day meals to TEAM KIRTLAND-ERS at the Thunderbird Dining Facility. From the left, front to back, are Lt. Col. Neil S. Whiteman, the 377th Air Base Wing

staff judge advocate, Chief Master Sgt. Alan Ludi, New Mexico Air National Guard, and Master Sgt. Michael Crews, 58th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

## Helicopter pilot killed in Afghanistan

Maj. Steven Plumhoff, a helicopter pilot from the 58th Special Operations Wing, was one of four Airmen killed Nov. 23 when their MH-53J Pave Low helicopter crashed near Bagram, Afghanistan.

Col. Eric Fiel, 58th Special Operations Wing commander, said, "Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family and friends of our fallen Airman. He was an outstanding officer and an asset to the Air Force. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him."

Plumhoff, an Air Force Academy graduate, was from Neshanic Station, N.J.

A private memorial service is being planned.

The aircraft was flying in support of Operation Mountain Resolve as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The cause of the crash is unknown and under investigation.

The others killed in the accident:

★ Tech. Sgt. William J. Kerwood, 37, of Houston, Mo. Kerwood was assigned to the 20th Special Operations Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla.

★ Staff Sgt. Thomas A. Walkup Jr., 25, of Millville, N.J. Walkup was assigned to the 20th SOS.

★ Tech. Sgt. Howard A. Walters, 33, of Port Huron, Mich. Walters was assigned to the 20th SOS.



Maj. Steven Plumhoff

### Climate Survey

The Air Force Climate Survey has been extended to Dec. 15.

Go to <https://afclimatesurvey.af.mil/>.

### Holiday food drive

Donations are accepted through Dec. 16 for the Kirtland AFB holiday food drive.

Nonperishable items needed include packaged turkey gravy, boxed mashed potatoes, canned pumpkin, dressing and cranberries.

Donations may be taken to the Family Support Center or placed in collection boxes around base. Distribution is Dec. 23.

### Nucleus not published during holiday weeks

The Nucleus will not be published Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

The last Nucleus issue for the year is Dec. 19. It will include schedules of open/closed sections and events through Jan. 8. Submissions for the Dec. 19 Nucleus are due by noon, Dec. 15.

Send submissions to [377ABW.Nucleus@kirtland.af.mil](mailto:377ABW.Nucleus@kirtland.af.mil).

The first issue of 2004 is Jan. 9. Deadline for that Nucleus is Jan. 5, noon.

### Airmen's holiday dinner slated

The Chapel and first sergeants host the Airmen's Holiday Dinner, Dec. 17, 5:30 p.m., in the Rio Grande Community Center.

The "old fashioned holiday feast" features food and entertainment free to Airmen. Reservations are not needed.

Call first sergeants or the chapel at 846-5691.

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TEAM  
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**Supplement**  
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